GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5273
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ON SEEDS AND BIO-TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched/proposes to launch an Accelerated Research and Development Programme on Seeds and Bio-technology to support public sectors and private seeds enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched an accelerated Research and Development Programme on Seeds and Bio-technology to support public sector and private seed enterprises.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) continued with its commitments of enhancing farm productivity through crop improvement programme and management. ICAR has taken following initiatives in seeds and biotechnology:-

Seeds:

1. National Seed Project (NSP) (Crops) has been upgraded as Directorate of Seed Research (DSR), Mau, Uttar Pradesh during X Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 3703.89 lakh for Directorate of Seed Research and Centres of National Seed Project. It has been established to coordinate all research projects concerning enhanced genetic and physical characteristics of seed for increased productivity, quality and sustainability.

2. The project ` Seed Production in Agricultural Crops and Fisheries` was implemented with a total outlay of Rs. 19889.94 lakhs for the Xth Plan period (2005-07) at 85 centres located at State Agricultural Universities/ Central Agricultural University/ICAR Institutes and other organizations with objectives of production of quality seed of field crops, horticultural crops and fisheries.

Biotechnology

1. ICAR has launched a new project entitled `Transgenics in Crops` to intensify research on development of transgenics to increase yield and quality in 14 crops involving 20 ICAR institutes since 2005-06.

2. Network Project on Molecular Breeding has been implemented by ICAR with an outlay of Rs.2.41 crores (approx.) for three years duration from A.P. Cess Fund. It is in 11 field and horticultural crops viz. rice, wheat, maize, sorghum, pigeonpea, soybean, potato, banana, grapes, tomato and sugarcane.

3. Network Project on Gene Pyramiding for Resistance to Multiple Biotic Stress in Crops has been in operation in 12 centres on five crops viz. Rice, Wheat, Maize, Chickpea, Tomato and Oilseed crops.

4. Deptt. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology is also considering the proposals of Biotechnology in the various sectors for promoting public/private partnership towards commercialization under the Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI). Beside above Department of Biotechnology is also funding for various activities of biotechnology including Agricultural Biotechnology.